

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
RUBY BUTLER DEMESME

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the accomplishments and career of one of North Carolina's daughters, Mrs. Ruby Butler DeMesme. Mrs. DeMesme, a public servant of the highest order, recently retired from her post as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment after 32 years of service.

Mrs. DeMesme earned her bachelor of arts degree in English from Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh in 1969. Ten years later she earned a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before beginning her civil service career, Mrs. DeMesme was a highly recognized and respected expert on child and spousal abuse and adolescent programs for the Cumberland County Department of Social Services in Fayetteville.

Mrs. DeMesme's career in the federal work force began in 1980 as an Army adjutant and diversion chief in Mainz, West Germany, where she led the effort to improve family support and quality of life programs. In 1989, she left the Department of the Army and served as a senior aide to former Senator John Glenn. After leaving Capitol Hill, Mrs. DeMesme returned to the Army for a brief time until her move to the Department of the Air Force in 1991, where she would work until her retirement. She was appointed and confirmed to her current post on August 13, 1998.

Over her ten years with the Air Force, Mrs. DeMesme was responsible for increasing housing and station funding policies, establishing the military Transition Assistance Program, and working to ensure that the Air Force had the highest quality child development programs. She was also the catalyst behind the effort to revitalize communities affected by base closures and realignments, overhauled the military commissary and base exchange system, established policies regarding harassment and discrimination, and led the Department of Defense in military family housing privatization.

Mrs. DeMesme has touched the lives of thousands of people during her distinguished career and it is fitting that we honor her today. Ruby Butler DeMesme is a true patriot who has helped maintain the best military force in the world. Today, I thank her for her years of dedicated service to our brave men and women in uniform and wish the very best for her and her family in the years to come.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article printed on the front page of the January 28, 2001 Washington Post. The article demonstrates a fundamental aspect of the growing human rights emergency in Colombia. It also details the role of paramilitary organizations in human rights violations taking place in Colombia and the complicity of the Colombian military and government in allowing human rights abuse, such as the Chengue massacre, to continue.

Despite the thousands of civilian deaths and millions of displaced people in Colombia, the United States has moved forward with a misguided policy of massive military aid and close involvement in Colombia's conflict. I strongly believe that our current policy under Plan Colombia is the wrong approach for our nation in dealing with Colombia and is certainly the most ineffective and insincere way to deal with our domestic drug problem.

CHRONICLE OF A MASSACRE FORETOLD

(By Scott Wilson)

CHENGUE, COLOMBIA.—In the cool hours before sunrise on Jan. 17, 50 members of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia marched into this village of avocado farmers. Only the barking of dogs, unaccustomed to the blackness brought by a rare power outage, disturbed the mountain silence.

For an hour, under the direction of a woman known as Comandante Beatriz, the paramilitary troops pulled men from their homes, starting with 37-year-old Jaime Merino and his three field workers. They assembled them into two groups above the main square and across from the rudimentary health center. Then, one by one, they killed the men by crushing their heads with heavy stones and a sledgehammer. When it was over, 24 men lay dead in pools of blood. Two more were found later in shallow graves. As the troops left, they set fire to the village.

The growing power and brutality of Colombia's paramilitary forces have become the chief concern of international human rights groups and, increasingly, Colombian and U.S. officials who say that 8,000-member private army pose the biggest obstacle to peace in the country's decades-old civil conflict.

This massacre, the largest of 23 mass killings attributed to the paramilitaries this month, comes as international human rights groups push for the suspension of U.S. aid to the Colombian armed forces until the military shows progress on human rights. The armed forces, the chief beneficiary of the \$1.3 billion U.S. anti-drug assistance package known as Plan Colombia, deny using the paramilitaries as a shadow army against leftist guerrillas, turning a blind eye to their crimes or supporting them with equipment, intelligence and troops.

But in Chengue, more than two dozen residents interviewed in their burned-out homes and temporary shelters said they believe the Colombian military helped carry out the massacre.

In dozens of interviews, conducted in small groups and individually over three days, survivors said military aircraft undertook surveillance of the village in the days preceding the massacre and in the hour immediately following it. The military, according to these accounts, provided safe passage to the paramilitary column and effectively sealed off the area by conducting what villagers described as a mock daylong battle with leftist guerrillas who dominate the area.

"There were no guerrillas," said one resident, who has also told his story to two investigators from the Colombian prosecutor general's human rights office. "There motive was to keep us from leaving and anyone else from coming in until it was all clear. We hadn't seen guerrillas for weeks."

A "DIRTY WAR"

The rutted mountain track to Chengue provides a vivid passage into the conflict consuming Colombia. Chengue and hundreds of villages like it are the neglected and forgotten arenas where illegal armed forces of the right and left, driven by a national tradition of settling political differences with violence, conduct what Colombians call their "dirty war."

Despite peace talks between the government and the country's largest guerrilla insurgency, more than 25,600 Colombians died violently last year. Of those, 1,226 civilians—a third more than the previous year—died in 205 mass killings that have come to define the war. Leftist guerrillas killed 164 civilians last year in mass killings, according to government figures, compared with 507 civilians killed in paramilitary massacres. More than 2 million Colombians have fled their homes to escape the violence.

In this northern coastal mountain range, strategic for its proximity to major transportation routes, all of Colombia's armed actors are present. Two fronts of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's oldest and largest leftist guerrilla insurgency with about 17,000 armed members, control the lush hills they use to hide stolen cattle and victims of kidnappings-for-profit.

The privately funded United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, known by the initials AUC in Spanish, patrols the rolling pastures and menaces the villages that provide the FARC with supplies. Paramilitary groups across Colombia have grown in political popularity and military strength in recent years as a counterweight to the guerrillas, and obtain much of their funding from relations with drug traffickers. Here in Sucre province, ranchers who are the targets of the kidnappings and cattle theft allegedly finance the paramilitary operations. AUC commander Carlos Castano, who has condemned the massacre here and plans his own investigation, lives a few hours away in neighboring Cordoba province.

The armed forces, who are outnumbered by the leftist guerrillas in a security zone that covers 9,000 square miles and includes more than 200 villages, are responsible for confronting both armed groups. Col. Alejandro Parra, head of the navy's 1st Brigade, with responsibility for much of Colombia's northern coast, said the military would need at least 1,000 more troops to effectively control the zones.

The military has prepared its own account of the events surrounding the massacre at

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Chengue, which emptied this village of all but 100 of its 1,200 residents. Parra confirmed elements of survivor accounts, but denied that military aircraft were in the area before or immediately after the killings. He said his troops' quick response may have averted a broader massacre involving neighboring villages.

"They must have been confused about the time" the first helicopters arrived, Parra said. "If there were any helicopters there that soon after the massacre, they weren't ours."

#### STRATEGIC LOCATION

Three families have flourished in Chengue for generations, tending small orchards of avocados renowned for their size and sweetness. The only residents not related to the Oviedo, Lopez or Merino families are the farm workers who travel the lone dirt road that dips through town. The longest trip most inhabitants ever make is the two-hour drive by jeep to Ovejas, the local government seat.

But in recent years the village, set in the Montes de Maria range, has become a target on battle maps because of its strategic perch between the Caribbean Sea and the Magdalena River. Whoever controls the mountains also threatens the most important transportation routes in the north.

Villagers say FARC guerrillas frequently pass through seeking supplies. Any support, many villagers say, is given mostly out of fear. As one 34-year-old farmer who survived the massacre by scrambling out his back window said, "When a man with a gun knocks on our door at 11 at night wanting food and a place to sleep, he becomes your landlord."

The AUC's Heroes of the Montes de Maria Front announced its arrival in Chengue last spring with pamphlets and word-of-mouth warnings of a pending strike. The paramilitaries apparently identified Chengue as a guerrilla stronghold—a town to be emptied. The AUC's local commander, Beatriz, was one a member of the FARC's 35th Front, which operates in the zone, military officials said. Ten months ago she quarreled with the FARC leadership for allegedly mishandling the group's finances and defected to the AUC for protection and perhaps a measure of revenge.

In April, community leaders in Chengue and 20 other villages sent President Andres Pastrana and the regional military command a letter outlining the threat. "We have nothing to do with this conflict," they wrote in asking for protection.

The letter was sent two months after the massacre of 36 civilians in El Salado, a village about 30 miles southeast of here in Bolivar province that is patrolled by the same military command and paramilitary forces. But according to villagers and municipal officials in Ovejas, the request for help brought no response from the central government or the navy's 1st Brigade, which is based in the city of Sincelejo 25 miles south of here.

In October, the villagers repeated their call for help in another letter to Pastrana, regional military leaders, international human rights groups and others. Municipal officials met with members of the 1st Brigade in November, but said no increased military presence materialized. In fact, municipal officials said, the 5th Marine Infantry Battalion seemed to stop patrolling the village.

Six Chengue residents who signed the letter died in the massacre. Col. Parra said the requests for help were among dozens received at brigade headquarters in the past year, but that manpower shortages made it impossible to respond to every one.

"What is clear is that the government and [the military] knew about the evidence of a

possible massacre and did nothing," said a municipal official in Ovejas, who like many interviewed in the aftermath of the slaughter requested anonymity for fear of reprisal. "The military seemed to clear out of the zone."

After weeks of not seeing any sign of the military, villagers said a small, white propeller plane swooped low over the village on Jan. 14, three days before the massacre. They identified the aircraft as the same plane used to drop anti-guerrilla pamphlets three months earlier—a "psychological operation," Parra confirmed, although he denied knowledge of this particular flight. The low-altitude pass left the farmers uneasy.

Over the next two nights, the darkness fell on the village, residents said two green military helicopters passed over in slow circles. "They are the same ones I'd seen pass by before, but just coming and going, not circling," said a young mother. "We didn't know what they were doing."

Seven hours after the helicopters left the second time, the power went out in Chengue, Salitral and a series of neighboring villages that had warned of a pending paramilitary attack. Villagers noted the time somewhere between 1:30 and 2 a.m. because, as one woman remembered, "the dogs started barking when the house lights went out." Some villagers lit candles. Most remained asleep.

In the blackness, the paramilitary column dressed in Colombian army uniforms moved along the dirt road from the west, arriving between 4 and 4:30 a.m., villagers said. The column was led by Beatriz, whom military officials said is a nurse by training; witnesses said the men in her command addressed her as "doctora."

The column stopped at the gray concrete home of Jaime Merino, the first on the road, and kicked in the door. They seized him and three workers, including Luis Miguel Romero, who picked avocados to pay for medical treatment for his infant daughter.

They were led down the steep dirt road into the village, past the church and school, and to a small terrace above the square where they waited. Three brothers from the green house on the square, a father and two sons from the sky blue house across the square, and Nestor Merino, a mentally ill man who hadn't left his home in four months, all joined them in the flickering darkness.

When the men arrived for Rusbel Oviedo Barreto, 23, his father blocked the door.

"They pushed me away," said Enrique al Alberto Oviedo Merino, 68. "I was yelling not to take him, and they were saying 'we'll check the computer.' There was no computer. They were mocking us. They took my identification card and said they would know me the next time."

Cesar Merino awoke on his farm above the village, and peering down, saw the town below lit by candles. His neighbors, 19-year-old Juan Carlos Martinez Oviedo and his younger brother Elkin, were also awake. The three men, who worked the same avocado farm, walked down the hillside into town. Elkin, 15, was the youngest to die.

On the far side of town, where the road bends up and out toward Ovejas, the paramilitaries gathered Cesar Merino's cousin, Andres Merino, and his 18-year-old son, Cristobal. One of them, father or son, watched the other die before his own execution.

Human rights workers and survivors speculated that the paramilitaries, who were armed with automatic rifles, used stones to kill the men to heighten the horror of the message to surrounding villages and to maintain a measure of silence in a guerrilla zone.

The work was over within an hour and a half. As the column prepared to leave, ac-

cording to several witnesses, one militiaman used a portable radio to make a call. No transmission was intercepted that morning by military officials, although their log of the preceding weeks showed numerous intercepts of FARC radio traffic. Then the men smashed the town's only telephone and set the village on fire.

The hillside was full of hiding villagers, many of whom say that between 15 and 30 minutes later two military helicopters arrived overhead and circled for several minutes. The sun was beginning to rise.

"They would have been able to see [the paramilitaries] clearly at that hour," said one survivor, who has fled to Ovejas. "Why didn't they catch anyone?"

Human rights officials say the described events resemble those surrounding the massacre last year in El Salado. Gen. Rodrigo Quinones was the officer in charge of the security zone for Chengue and El Salado at that time, and remained in that post in the months leading up to the Chengue massacre. He left the navy's 1st Brigade last month to run a special investigation at the Atlantic Command in Cartagena, from where military flights in the zone are directed.

In a report issued this month, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Washington Office on Latin America called specifically for Quinones's removal. As a regional head of naval intelligence in the early 1990s, Quinones was linked to the killings of 57 trade unionists, human rights workers and activists. He was acquitted by a military court. According to the human rights report, a civilian judge who reviewed the case was "perplexed" by the verdict, saying he found the evidence of Quinones's guilt "irrefutable."

El Salado survivors said a military plane and helicopter flew over the village the day of the massacre, and that at least one wounded militiaman was transported from the site by military helicopter. Soldiers under Quinones's command sealed the village for days, barring even Red Cross workers from entering.

"We are very worried and very suspicious about the coincidences," said Anders Kompass, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights representative in Colombia. "This involves the same officer in charge, the same kind of military activity before and after the massacre, and the same lack of military presence while it was going on."

#### "THERE IS A TERROR HERE"

During the two hours following the killings, survivors emerged from hiding and into the shambles of their village. Eliecer Lopez Oviedo, a 66-year-old Chengue native, said his son arrived at his small farm at 9 a.m.

"He told me they had burned Chengue, killed my brothers, my sister and my niece," he said. "I arrived there to find that they hadn't killed the women. But my three brothers were above the square, dead."

What Oviedo and others found were two piles of bodies—17 on the dirt terrace above the square, seven in front of the health center. Cristobal Merino's Yankees hat, torn and bloody, lay near his body. The rocks used in the killings remained where they were dropped. The bodies of Videncio Quintana Barreto and Pedro Arias Barreto, killed along with fathers and brothers, were found later in shallow graves.

Ash from more than 20 burning houses floated in the hot, still air. Graffiti declaring "Get Out Marxist Communist Guerrillas," "AUC" and "Beatriz" was scrawled across the walls of vacant houses. "The bodies were all right there for us to see, and I knew all of them," said a 56-year Chengue resident whose brother and brother-in-law were

among the dead. "Now there is a terror here."

Officials at the 1st Brigade said they were alerted at 8:45 a.m. when the National Police chief for Sucre reported a possible paramilitary "incursion" in Chengue. According to a military log, Parra dispatched two helicopters to the village at 9:30 a.m. and the Dragon company of 80 infantry soldiers based in nearby Pijiguay five minutes later. Villagers said the troops did not arrive for at least another two hours.

When they did arrive, according to logs and soldiers present that day, a gun battle erupted with guerrillas from the FARC's 35th Front. Parra said he sealed the roads into the zone "to prevent the paramilitaries from escaping." The battle lasted all day—the air force sent in one Arpia and three Black Hawk helicopters at 2:10 p.m., according to the military—and village residents waved homemade white flags urging the military to stop shooting. No casualties were reported on either side. No paramilitary troops were captured.

Three days later, the 1st Brigade announced the arrest of eight people in connection with the killings. They were apprehended in San Onofre, a town 15 miles from Chengue known for a small paramilitary camp that patrols nearby ranches. Villagers say that, though they didn't see faces that morning because of the darkness, these "old names" are scapegoats and not the men who killed their families.

A steady flow of traffic now moves toward Ovejas, jeeps stuffed with everything from refrigerators to pool cues to family pictures. The marines have set up two base camps in Chengue—one under a large shade tree behind the village, the other in the vacant school. The remaining residents do not mix with the soldiers.

"We have taken back this town," said Maj. Alvaro Jimenez, standing in the square two days after the massacre. "We are telling people we are here, that it is time to reclaim their village."

No one plans to. Marlena Lopez, 52, lost three brothers, a nephew, a brother-in-law and her pink house. Her brother, Cesar Lopez, was the town telephone operator. He fled, she said, "with nothing but his pants."

In the ashes of her home, she weeps about the pain she can't manage. "We are humble people," she said. "Why in the world are we paying for this?"

#### RECOGNIZING THE MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONS LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

##### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the achievements of the 2000 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. This past season the Ludlow girls team compiled a record of 21-0-0 en route to earning the Coombs Division League Championship, the Western Massachusetts Division I Championship, and the Massachusetts Division I State Championship. Their efforts enabled them to earn a ranking of 3rd in the country.

Each year the Commonwealth of Massachusetts fields many talented high school soccer squads. Every season the Ludlow community looks forward to cheering on their hometown heroes. This year the Lions certainly did not

disappoint. Finishing a season undefeated and untied, as the Ludlow girls did, is a feat well deserving of high praise. The Ludlow girls soccer team rose to the challenge each and every game. They are winners in every sense of the word and are examples of athletic prowess, class, and true sportsmanship.

For leading his team to such accomplishments, Head Coach Jim Calheno has been named the Massachusetts Division I Girls' Coach of the Year. Under his leadership, the Lions have remained a perennial powerhouse. His assistants are tireless and deserve praise as well. In addition I would like to note that senior midfielder Liz Dyjak has earned All-American honors while senior forward Stephanie Santos has been named to the All-New England team.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the 2000 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The seniors are: Jessica Vital, Lindsay Robillard, Sarah Davis, Lindsay Haluch, Nikky Gebo, Liz Dyjak, Kara Williamson, Stephanie Santos, and Ana Pereira. Kristine Goncalves is a Junior on the squad. The Sophomores are: Darcie Rickson, Beth Cochenour, Natalie Gebo, and Lauren Pereira. Freshmen members include Jessica Luszczyk, and Stefany Knight. The Head Coach is Jim Calheno. Assistant Coaches are Saul Chelo, James Annear, Nuno Pereira, and Tony Vital. The team manager is Katie Romansky.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to send my congratulations to the Ludlow High School girls soccer team on their outstanding season. I wish them the best of luck in the 2001 season.

#### H.R. 93, THE FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT AGE CORRECTION ACT

##### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I was a cosponsor of H.R. 460, the Federal Firefighters Retirement Age Correction Act in the 106th Congress and would have voted to support H.R. 93 yesterday. Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen family illness, I was absent and not able to vote in support of H.R. 93, the Federal Firefighters Retirement Age Correction Act. I would like the RECORD to reflect my support for H.R. 93.

#### RECOGNIZING BETTY FITZPATRICK

##### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to recognize Ms. Betty Fitzpatrick from Evergreen, Colorado, who was selected by the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) as the School Nurse Administrator of the year for 2000. Recently, NASN hosted an event for Ms. Fitzpatrick on Capitol Hill to honor her, and to applaud her for her excellent work on behalf of the public school children in my district.

As a former public school teacher, I had first-hand experience in seeing the hard work of our Nation's school nurses. All teachers know that being a good student require a degree of good health, and I appreciate the work of Ms. Fitzpatrick in organizing health efforts for the children in my district and wish to extend my personal congratulations.

It is important to note that the work of many school nurses, like Ms. Fitzpatrick, goes beyond the assistance they provide directly to students. They serve as mentors to their colleagues, and serve an array of needs ranging from medical ailments to counseling for a student who needs a listening ear. Betty Fitzpatrick, especially, has participated in training for and as a consultant to school nurses, to assist them in developing crisis plans, and in dealing with tragic situations.

Ms. Fitzpatrick has spent her personal and professional life advocating children's physical and mental health while supporting school nursing. For the past 11 years she has served as the Director of Health Services for all 136 Jefferson County Schools in Golden, Colorado. She has been the president and treasurer of her state organization, a prolific author, an advocate for legislation, a grant writer and a national presenter.

The NASN newsletter reported that aside from the day to day challenges of being a school nurse administrator, Ms. Fitzpatrick had the great misfortune of dealing with an incomprehensible tragedy, which took place at one of her high schools—Columbine. Within minutes, she was contacted, and her emergency plan was activated. She and her nurses didn't wait for instructions, they knew what needed to be done, and they got to work. As the newsletter stated, the Columbine tragedy wounded a nation, but Betty continues to meet the unique needs of this school community and the others she serves.

Again, I am delighted by this honor that Ms. Fitzpatrick has brought to the State of Colorado, and I offer my sincere congratulations.

#### HONORING GAYE LEBARON

##### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gaye LeBaron. For 43 years Gaye LeBaron's columns in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat have recorded and enlivened Sonoma County and the Redwood Empire. By personalizing the community's history and sense of place with honesty and good humor, LeBaron captured the respect and the hearts of her readers.

In her 8,000 columns LeBaron demonstrated that quality journalism can be witty, insightful, and compassionate. She worked as an observer and story teller, yet did not hesitate to take a stand—on issues as great as racial discrimination or as mundanely important as street lights—when it was needed. Whether focusing on the quirkiness of every day happenings or wrapping the reader in the sweep of North Coast history, Gaye LeBaron's colorful depictions made life what it is—interesting and personal.

LeBaron has also devoted her time and expertise to community causes through teaching,

speaking, fundraising, and serving as a resource where needed. Her work interviewing local elders for a video history project with the Sonoma County Museum will stand with her columns as a testament to this special region and the spirit of its people.

I can say personally that being included in a Gaye LeBaron column is a coveted experience. We will miss Gaye on a daily basis but will look forward to her continuing contributions.

DAVID A. HARRIS GIVES  
THOUGHTFUL INSIGHT ON  
ISRAEL'S DIFFICULT POLITICAL  
AND SECURITY CHOICES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, finding a peaceful solution to the problems in the Middle East has long been an important concern of the United States. Attempts to reach a resolution of these difficulties, unfortunately have thus far failed.

While workable solutions have been found in short supply, a number of extremely helpful insights have been put forward. In this regard, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a particularly insightful article by David A. Harris, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee. Although it was written before the inauguration of the new American President and prior to the latest of peace negotiations ending in a stalemate, the insights that Mr. Harris provides are still timely and important.

Mr. Speaker, I commend David Harris' thoughts to my colleagues and urge them to give his article careful attention.

AS ISRAEL MAKES FATEFUL POLITICAL AND  
SECURITY CHOICES, ITS FRIENDS ABROAD  
ALSO ARE CONFRONTING HARD TRUTHS

(By David A. Harris, Executive Director, The American Jewish Committee, Jan. 4, 2001)

In recent months, like many friends of Israel, I've had my share of sleepless nights. With only a few brief moments of either hope or respite, the news has been unrelentingly disturbing and depressing. Israel is once again under siege. Every corner of Israel, every Israeli is a potential target. There is no distinction between soldier and civilian, between adult and youth, between dove and hawk, between believer and atheist, or between those living within and those living beyond the Green Line. It may not be all-out war as we saw in 1967 or 1973, but it is a calculated Palestinian strategy to obtain through violence what they have heretofore failed to achieve by negotiation.

Some Israelis and their friends abroad react to this volatile situation by beating their breasts and asking yet again what more Israel might do to meet demands of the Palestinians. Others, at the opposite end of the political spectrum, conclude that not only is the pursuit of peace a dangerous dream but, even more, a risk to the very existence of the state.

#### DECISIONS ON WAR AND PEACE

As I see it, Israel has no clear option, no obvious way to turn, and its predicament is further exacerbated by its complex and polarized domestic situation. In saying this, I

do not wish to second-guess the Israeli government and people. I have always taken the view that it is for them, first and foremost, to make the fateful decisions about war and peace and the steps that can lead in either direction. And the sheer survival of Israel over 52 years, not to mention its remarkable growth and development, adequately attests to its uncanny ability to overcome the odds, confound the skeptics, and disprove the doomsayers. Even as I openly worry about the future, then, I am inspired and reassured by Israelis' determination to go on, to fight when necessary, to negotiate for peace whenever possible.

Today we are confronted with a situation that few, especially in the West, might have predicted. A dovish Israeli government—prepared to cross its own red lines, especially regarding the future status of Jerusalem, in the pursuit of an historic peace agreement with the Palestinians—is faced with violence in the streets, calls for jihad, and terrorist attacks in the heart of the country, while the Arab world lines up foursquare behind the Palestinians and seeks to isolate Israel by depicting it as the trigger-happy-aggressor, the Nazi reincarnation.

Thus, instead of grasping Israel's outstretched hand and seeking to resolve outstanding issues, however challenging, at the bargaining table, the Palestinians perceived instead a weakened Israel. If proof was needed, it came for them in the unilateral decision to withdraw from Southern Lebanon after Israeli mothers led a campaign to bring their sons home before more were killed at the hands of Hizbullah; in Prime Minister Barak's determination to make peace before the end of the Clinton presidency, which was, in the final analysis, an artificial deadline; and in Israel's perceived vulnerability to the sting of international censure, given Barak's efforts to undo the global public relations impact of the Netanyahu years.

In effect, Arafat, though the weaker party by far, has skillfully leveraged his position, emerging stronger than might have been imagined. He has, for example, already managed to prove once again that violence does pay—the current deal being brokered by the White House and given tentative approval by Barak appears to go beyond the package on the table at Camp David in July. If so, why should Arafat, from his point of view, stop here?

#### VIOLENCE AND NEGOTIATIONS

Eager to see his long-sought Palestinian state emerge from the "honor and blood" of the martyred, ever mindful of the most radical elements among the Palestinians, and determined not to demand less than Anwar Sadat, King Hussein, or Hafaz el-Assad in insisting on Israeli compliance with all his territorial demands, Arafat continues his complete juggling act of encouraging violence and talking peace at one and the same time.

At the very least, we can expect from Arafat more of the same brinksmanship through the last days of the Clinton Administration, though we don't know what, if anything, will come of it. Knowing how eager the American leader is to leave the political scene with substantial progress to show in the Middle East given his extraordinary investment of time, energy, and the prestige of the presidency, and aware of how committed the Israeli leader has been to making this possible on Clinton's watch, Arafat will squeeze the moment for all it's worth, and then some, in an effort to improve still further his bargaining position.

Not quite, some observers will note. Arafat doesn't hold all the cards. After all, there's an Israeli election around the corner and, without a peace deal, the conventional wisdom is that Barak will fall and Arafat will

then have to face his old nemesis, Ariel Sharon, who will make the Palestinian leader's life a lot more difficult. Maybe, but then again, maybe not.

We in the West make a living out of failing to understand the Middle East. We're so busy superimposing our own deeply ingrained ways of thinking on the region—based in large measure on our rationalism, pragmatism, willingness to compromise, and tendency to mirror-image ("surely they're like us and want the very same things in life as we do")—that we too often end up surprised and puzzled when things don't go as we might expect.

We don't speak Arabic; we have little contact with Arab culture; we have minimal understanding of the nature of Islam and its pervasive role in the life of the Arab world; we spend too little time reading the writings of Judith Miller, Bernard Lewis, Fouad Ajami, and other knowledgeable observers of the region; and we embrace too quickly as representative those selected Arab voices that sound reassuring to us.

Yet none of this stops us from thinking we know enough about the region to offer grounded views on diplomacy and strategy. Indeed, the U.S. Government, with its far greater resources and expertise, has stumbled more than once, with fatal consequences, trying to make its way across the Middle East minefields.

Isn't it just possible that the prospect of a Prime Minister Sharon not only doesn't frighten Arafat but actually appeals to him? Taking a page from Leon Trotsky—the worse it gets, the better it becomes—Arafat may, in fact, perceive advantages in such an outcome: with Sharon demonized in the international news media and sharply criticized in world capitals, Israel could face new international pressures, including renewed calls for UN intervention and increased sympathy for a unilateral declaration of independence.

#### TESTS FOR BARAK AND SHARON

And this brings us back to Israel's domestic predicament. Barak, the pollsters say, needs a peace deal before February 6 if he is to have a chance at winning the election. Without it, he is saddled with negative images—accusations of political ineptness, willingness to yield to the demands of religious parties despite his calls to marginalize them, and inexperience and imprudence in dealing with the Palestinians. Thus, no matter what he says between now and February 6, no matter how tough his language may be at times, the prevailing assumption is that he needs Arafat to bail him out and both men know it.

On the other hand, Sharon is a known quantity who is a deeply polarizing figure in Israel. He is seen as representing a return to the Shamir years of a "fortress Israel" in eternal conflict with the enemies of the Jewish people. That will not sit well, not for long, I suspect, with many Israelis living in a prospering first-world country that longs for regional stability and even a chilly peace with its neighbors, so that it can finally one day turn to the future and away from the endless cycles of violence of the past.

After all, if the Israeli left was revealed to be the victim of its own illusions about creating a new Middle East, the Israeli right, illustrated by Sharon, has been the victim of its own illusions about the possibility of maintaining an indefinite status quo of occupation. If Barak is found wanting by the Israeli electorate in his ability to provide answers and solutions, then it's equally likely Sharon, if elected prime minister, will face the same prospect within short order, unless he is able to turn in entirely new policy directions.

Of course, whoever is elected, Barak or Sharon, will face the very same unruly and

fractionated Knesset, which further clouds the outlook for stable governance. This is precisely what Benjamin Netanyahu is counting on. Although polls showed him leading both Barak and Sharon, he chose not to run this time around unless the Knesset dissolved itself and also stood for new elections. It was a statesmanlike position, praised by many, including some who do not normally count themselves among Netanyahu's most fervent admirers; it was also a position calculated to elevate his standing in the expectation that whoever is elected in February will not be able to lead for long before yet another round of voting, including parliamentary elections, is needed. At that time, Netanyahu, seeking to cast himself as the true centrist, would almost surely step into the political fray.

#### OVERRIDING POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC FACTORS

In the meantime, as Israeli politics seeks to sort itself against the backdrop of the deep and seemingly irreconcilable fissures in Israeli society, certain things seem clear and best not be forgotten.

First, many of the claims of the Israeli right, especially since the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993, have proved accurate, though they were largely ignored by those on the left who reflexively dismissed anything said by spokesmen on the right. For example, incitement to hatred among Palestinians has continued unabated and with devastating consequences. Moreover, the accumulation of weapons and the build-up of the Palestinian police and militia, in direct contravention of the Oslo Accords, have created a deadly adversary for Israel. And the wink and nod to Palestinian extremists—many arrested with great fanfare only to be released as soon as no one was paying attention—has undermined the chances for a peaceful settlement with Israel.

Second, many of the claims of the Israeli left have also proved strikingly accurate, despite attempts by those on the right to dismiss them. Palestinians who not docilely remain under Israeli occupation forever. Neither could Israel expect occupation to continue without some corrosive effects on its democratic values, nor could it absorb the Palestinians in the territories without undoing the Jewish character of the state. And sooner or later, Jewish settlers in remote outposts in Gaza, for example, would become flashpoints for violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

Third, as a consequence, no one school of thought has a monopoly of wisdom on what is best for Israel. Ideologues, whether of the left or right, become prisoners of their own preset views, and, as a result, tend to adjust the facts to their doctrinal thinking rather than the other way around.

Fourth, regardless of what happens in the short run respecting Israeli-Palestinian issues, the sad reality is that Israel will continue to face severe challenges in the region, requiring a powerful military, eternal vigilance, and close coordination with the United States.

Iran and Iraq pose dangerous, and growing, threats, particularly in the nonconventional field. Islamic extremist groups operating in the region will not soon go away. Syria possesses missiles and chemical warheads. Disturbingly, Egypt has embarked on a broad modernization program of its conventional forces and is known to be engaged in research on some nonconventional weapons systems as well. An emerging Palestinian state will alter the political and security landscape for Jordan, with unknown consequences.

#### PRESSURES ON THE ARAB WORLD

And, of course, the larger problems of the need for a true reformation in the Arab

world, of the glaring absence of democracy and the rule of law, of governmental lack of accountability to its citizens, of endemic corruption and nepotism, of high birth rates and insufficient jobs, of economic stagnation and fear of opening to the world, of the Islamists influence on society, all continue to plague this vast and important region of the world.

A few pertinent statistics illustrate the dimensions of the problems faced by the Arab world. Fouad Ajami of Johns Hopkins University has pointed out, for example, that Finland, with a population of 5 million, exports more manufactured goods than the entire Arab world combined, with its 22 countries and its population well over 200 million. Israel has a higher per capita GNP than its five contiguous neighbors—Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, and Egypt—combined, and more Internet users by far than all five put together. And impoverished Gaza has a higher birthrate by a multiple of nine than prosperous Bologna, Italy.

Fifth, we should be under little illusion about such notions as a “demilitarized Palestinian state” or “an end to the conflict.” A Palestinian state is coming, one way or another, and the debate about whether it is good or bad for Israel seems largely irrelevant. It will happen, and Israel no doubt will do its utmost to establish harmonious ties, but it must also recognize, as a recent CIA report looking ahead to the year 2015 predicted, that “chilly” relations are likely to prevail and surveillance and monitoring will be required.

That Palestinian state will not be demilitarized, I believe, regardless of agreements signed, which could pose a threat both to Israel and Jordan. And there will remain those Palestinians who will seek to continue the struggle with Israel, either because they see Israel proper as their real home, or because they see the Zionists as “infidels” and “modern-day Crusaders” who have no right to be there, or both.

Sixth, we need to take very seriously anti-Semitism emanating from the Arab world. Not only is it pernicious and contrary to the promotion of peaceful relations in the region, but it also fuels anti-Semitic attacks against Jews and Jewish targets throughout the world, as we have tragically seen in recent months.

And finally, we need to remind ourselves of the importance of our own role in making a difference on Israel's behalf. Both in our public education and advocacy efforts in the United States, in which we stress the mutual benefits of close U.S.-Israel ties as well as America's vital national interest in Israel's security in a stable Middle East, and in our diplomatic, exchange and public affairs programs around the world, the American Jewish Committee is making a unique contribution to Israel's well-being and its quest for peace and security. The political and security challenges that lie ahead for Israel will doubtless only heighten the importance of that work.

#### NOW IS THE TIME FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

#### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, they say the third time is the charm. This year the House will pass—for the third time—the Shays-Meehan or McCain-Feingold bill. By either name, this is

genuine, necessary and effective reform that will return power to the people and curb the endless money chase in our political campaigns.

This legislation ends the raising and spending of “soft” money. The parties have become addicted to huge checks from corporations, unions, and wealthy individuals. This bill puts both parties into immediate rehab.

This legislation also ends the sham “issue” ads that savage candidates of both parties in every election. It forces into the sunlight big money interests behind these ads.

The House has made it clear. It wants this reform to become law. This year, all of us hope that the Senate and our new President will look at this issue very carefully, offer constructive suggestions, and then join us in passing real campaign finance reform.

#### U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

#### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues an article written by Douglas Bloomfield for the Chicago Jewish Star. The article provides an accurate summary of President Clinton's efforts to facilitate peace and dialogue in the Middle East during his service to this country. I agree with Mr. Bloomfield that “No other (U.S.) President has been so closely identified with Israel's search for peace.”

Mr. Bloomfield's article discusses the popularity of President Clinton in Israel and among the Jewish Community in the United States due, in large part, to the commitment he made to do everything within his means to bring peace to the Middle East. I share that appreciation for the priority President Clinton made of these important issues. I have often looked to Mr. Bloomfield's work for an accurate perspective on events and trends in the Middle East as well as a constructive evaluation of U.S. Middle East policy. Clearly the Bush Administration has a tough act to follow in ensuring that Americans and Israeli's feel comfortable in America's commitment to the security of Israel and her prosperity in the future. I urge all of my colleagues to take the time to read the following article.

[From the Chicago Jewish Star]

WASHINGTON WATCH—SHALOM, BILL

(By Douglas M. Bloomfield)

“If Bill Clinton is looking for a job, he can come over there and run for prime minister. He'd win easily,” said a caller from Israel the other morning. “He's still the most popular politician in the country.”

And he remains popular at home as well, particularly in the Jewish community, despite the controversies that plagued his administration. The peace proposal he revealed recently in a farewell speech to peace activists included proposals that made even left even some dovish followers uncomfortable, but no reasonable person could challenge the sincerity of his desire to help Israel find peace.

Nor can anything overcome the hysterical frenzy of the Clinton haters and those extremists who see any concessions to the Palestinians as selling out Israel.

No other president has been so closely identified with Israel's search for peace. He

may have been motivated in part by a desire to leave a historic legacy, but as one of the savvyest politicians ever to occupy the Oval Office he long ago figured out there were far better ways to do that than by plunging into the Middle East morass.

Look instead to his relationship with the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who brought the completed Oslo agreement to Clinton with an appeal for help in implementing it. Clinton promised to minimize the risks for Israel and help smooth out the rough decisions. After Rabin's assassination, Clinton's commitment became a mission.

He can be faulted for pushing too long and too hard, especially after it should have been clear that he wanted peace more than the parties themselves, particularly Yasser Arafat.

He wrongly relied on Ehud Barak's faulty political instincts and novice politician's enthusiasm. The President ignored the advice of his own advisors, the Palestinians and some Israelis when he bowed to Barak's desire to convene last summer's abortive Camp David summit.

More recently, he has been trying to salvage a last minute agreement before leaving office—failing or refusing to hear the window of opportunity slam shut.

Clinton consistently overestimated his ability to affect Arafat's behavior, and he may have badly miscalculated the level of the Palestinian leader's commitment to a genuine peace.

Clinton has succeeded on so many fronts by dint of charm and personality, and he thought he could do it with Arafat as well. No other foreign leader has been to the White House as often, and Clinton's mistaken failure to demand Arafat pay more for that access only encouraged the Palestinian leader's obstinacy.

"He played Clinton Masterfully," said a former White House official. "Clinton felt he was giving peace every chance, but, like Rabin, Peres and Barak, he failed to hold Arafat's feet to the fire."

Clinton admonished Arafat in his speech earlier this month to Jewish leaders for fostering "the culture of violence and the culture of incitement." But his persistent reluctance to deal with Palestinian incitement was interpreted as a sign of weakness and may have fueled the current crisis.

Echoing a hopeful Israeli leaderships, he wrongly expected Israel's surprisingly forthcoming offers would elicit positive responses. But his blindness to Arafat's faults and deceptions may have encouraged the semi-retired terrorist to cling more tightly to his maximalist demands and let the Israelis negotiate with each other and with the Americans.

American and Israeli insiders say Clinton never pushed Israel without being encouraged by leaders there to give them a nudge and some political cover for tough decisions. But at the same time, Clinton mistakenly listened too much to some of his left-leaning Jewish friends who gave him bad advice on such things as his wife's meeting with Mrs. Arafat and his counter-productive confrontations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

If Clinton was too intensely involved in the nitty gritty of the peace process, there is a greater risk that his successor will be too disengaged.

Whatever his shortcomings, there can be no questioning Clinton's commitment to Israel and its search for peace. He brought an unprecedented warmth and understanding, even as he demonstrated a genuine empathy for the Palestinians that won their trust.

A key to Clinton's winning the confidence of the Israelis and the vast majority of Jewish voters was his high comfort level with

the Jewish community at home. It is unmatched by any president, as is the affection and support he got in return.

That backing was bolstered by domestic policies that were in synch with most Jewish voters, particularly on issues such as church-state separation, civil liberties, reproductive rights, the environment, education and social welfare.

Jewish voters rewarded him and his vice president with nearly 80% of their votes in three national elections.

There were more Jewish officials at all levels of the Clinton administration than in any prior government; at one time there were six in Cabinet level posts, compared to none so far in the incoming Bush administration.

American Jews never felt on the outside during the Clinton years' that was particularly important since he followed a president who publicly questioned their patriotism.

He deserves enormous credit for his historic contribution to the struggle to bring a measure of justice to the survivors of the Holocaust after decades of frustration and inaction. His personal commitment and the intense involvement of his administration, particularly through the outstanding work of Deputy Treasury Secretary Stuart Eizenstat, helped end half a century of Swiss denial and stone-walling.

That personal involvement produced progress in such areas as the restitution of stolen property in other nations, compensation for slave and forced laborers, the settlement of insurance claims, the return of cultural artifacts and aid for the neediest of Hitler's remaining victims.

Credit is shared with an unlikely partner, former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY). Although as chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, D'Amato was leading an investigation of the Clintons' Whitewater investments, both men rose above their political differences to cooperate fully in the Swiss investigations, realizing success beyond anyone's expectations.

Both the Administration and the Congress worked closely with the World Jewish Restitution Organization, representing both Israel and the diaspora, to bring about historic results.

I will leave it to others to chronicle Clinton's many shortcomings. I expect history will judge this flawed president more kindly than his contemporaries. He alone robbed his presidency of greatness as he demonstrated that in Washington most of the slings and arrows politicians suffer are self-inflicted.

But the Jewish community should be very grateful for his stewardship, for his dedication to assisting Israel in its search for peace, for his contribution to the survivors of the Holocaust and for his undeniable friendship.

#### HEALTH PREMIUMS AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SHOULD BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE ITEMS

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today, I will reintroduce legislation to allow health insurance premiums and unreimbursed prescription drug expenses to be tax deductible. Last year's bill number was H.R. 4472.

Under current law, employers can write off the cost of health care coverage purchased for their employees. Why can't individuals also be afforded the same opportunity to write off their

premiums and unreimbursed prescription drug expenses? The current tax code sets the threshold at 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income before an individual can write off their medical expenses. That doesn't seem right to me.

Currently, in order to claim health care expenses an individual must file an itemized tax return. I believe that all taxpayers should be allowed to deduct these out-of-pocket costs and that we need to include a place where this deduction could be taken on the short form such as the 1040 EZ and 1040A.

My bill also applies to the self-employed because individuals who are self-employed will not be eligible for a 100 percent write off until 2003.

This type of relief is long overdue. Allowing individuals to write off certain costly health care expenses they may incur would be a tremendous benefit that may not be available under the current system.

The National Taxpayers Union (NTU) endorsed my bill in the last congress.

#### LET'S NOT FORGET OUR FRIENDS ON TAIWAN

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, as a new administration takes office, we wish to remind them and our colleagues in Congress that we must not forget our friends in the Republic of China on Taiwan. Let's not forget Taiwan has a democratically-elected president and a parliament that is fully committed to the free enterprise system, democracy, and human rights. Let us not forget that we need to give the Republic of China on Taiwan all the support she richly deserves.

As many of us know, Mr. Chen Shi-gian was elected president of the Republic of China last March and was inaugurated as President on May 20. He chose Dr. Hung-mao Tien as his Foreign Minister. Since assuming office in May, under the direction of President Chen Shui-bian, Foreign Minister Tien has clearly articulated Republic of China's foreign policy thrusts. Regarding the People's Republic of China, Minister Tien has made clear that peace and non-aggression are essential to ensure that the two entities engage in reasonable and responsible discussions. At the same time, President Chen has made a number of conciliatory gestures towards the mainland. Taiwan does not seek confrontation, but a friendly dialogue with mainland China leading to future talks on all issues, including eventual reunification.

In terms of solidifying friendship and ties with ROC's allies, President Chen and Minister Tien have traveled far and wide. Last year they completed a grueling 2-week journey of friendship to ROC's allies in Central America and Africa. Minister Tien also traveled to Europe to strengthen Taiwan's ties with friendly nations.

It is our understanding that to seek greater international recognition, Taiwan will continue to seek a return to the United Nations and other international organizations. It is our view that a worthy nation like Taiwan must be given its proper recognition in the community of nations.



Taiwan considers its relations with the United States a matter of utmost importance. We are delighted that Taiwan is ably represented by Ambassador C.J. Chen in Washington. Ambassador Chen was Republic of China's former Foreign Minister and served in Taiwan's Washington office as Deputy Representative in the 80's. He knows Washington well and we are very pleased that he has briefed us from time to time and we are impressed with his energy and enthusiasm as he strengthens the ever growing bonds between Taiwan and the United States.

Even though Taiwan is isolated diplomatically, Taiwan has a strong foreign policy team, headed by President Chen Shui-bian whose policies are ably executed by his foreign minister, Dr. Hung-mao Tien, and his Washington representative, Cambridge-educated C.J. Chen.

It is our hope that the new administration and Congress will always remember our traditional friendship with Taiwan and its people. Let's not sacrifice Taiwan's interests as we seek better relations with the People's Republic of China in the months ahead. Taiwan and the United States have always stood together shoulder to shoulder and will always remain strong partners in maintaining peace and stability.

#### VIGILANCE IS NEEDED TO PROTECT AGAINST MAD COW DISEASE

##### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the January 23, 2001, Lincoln Journal Star. The editorial emphasizes the need to maintain strict standards and take aggressive actions in the United States so that our country does not have to confront the serious effects associated with mad cow disease.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, Jan. 23, 2001]

#### GET TOUGHER ON MAD COW DISEASE RULES

Much has been done in the United States to protect against bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease.

But not enough.

More needs to be done. One major need is for a strict prohibition against production of animal feed made from the parts of dead animals.

More than 80 people in Britain have already died from mad cow disease. The degenerative brain disease has been detected in one European country after another. France, Germany and Spain have all reported mad cow disease. Earlier this month Italy was added to the list.

Needless to say, the effects have been drastic. More than 2 million British cattle were killed in order to stop the spread of the disease. In Germany beef sales have dropped by more than 40 percent. The European Commission estimates that beef consumption among its members dropped by 27 percent between October and December, before the revelation the disease had been detected in Italy.

The costs of coping with the new disease are immense. The European Union has set aside almost \$1 billion to help its member nations establish new measures to prevent the disease from spreading.

Experts believe that bovine spongiform encephalopathy is caused by a twisted protein. The disease destroys brain cells, eventually leaving the brain riddled with spongy holes.

The disease is spread when cattle consume feed that includes protein rendered from slaughtered cattle. Since 1997 it has been illegal under Food and Drug Administration regulations to feed mammal proteins to cattle.

It is still legal, however, to feed mammal proteins to pigs and poultry. The FDA announced earlier this month that some feed producers frequently fail to use proper warning labels and that some producers have no system to avoid commingling protein from rendered cattle with other products. In other words, the system is flawed.

A total ban against using rendered cattle for animal feed admittedly would hurt the rendering industry and perhaps contribute to a rise in the price of feed.

But those negative effects should be measured against the need to protect consumers from the human variant to mad cow disease and the economic devastation that would quickly follow discovery of the disease in the United States.

In Nebraska, the cattle industry contributes more than \$4 billion a year to the state's economy.

With mad cow disease continuing to spread in Europe, aggressive measures should be used to keep the disease outside U.S. borders. Legislative has been introduced in North Dakota to prohibit production and use of feed containing animal parts. Nebraska should consider the same approach. Even better would be a ban that is nationwide.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. PAUL FARMER FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

##### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual who has served his country during a time of war and within the Department of Veterans Affairs during a time of peace. After entering the military at the age of 17, Mr. Paul G. Farmer of Spray, North Carolina served the majority of his military career in Europe before serving in Viet Nam in 1967 and 1968. He retired after 21 years of service to be with his wife shortly after she was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Yet, Mr. Farmer did not let his retirement from the military end his service to his country.

Paul Farmer began a long and successful career with the Department of Veterans' Affairs on December 5, 1989, but it was not until 1995 that Paul arrived in my district of El Paso, Texas with a new and inventive assignment. Paul was to implement a joint initiative between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans' Affairs that was designed to evaluate medical disabilities for active duty personnel prior to their discharge or retirement from service, a program that became very successful. Anyone who had the pleasure to work with Paul knew that he maintained an open door policy in his office to all area veterans. Paul initiated several community outreach programs and worked to achieve compensation and medical benefits for numer-

ous veterans in the El Paso and Southern New Mexico area.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Farmer has dedicated his career to the safety and security of his country and has further dedicated his professional life to ensure that United States Armed Service veterans are given the utmost respect and service a grateful nation should, by honor, bestow upon them. I ask that we recognize this individual, thank him for his years of dedicated service, and wish him Godspeed in his retirement.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO UNDERSECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, CAROL DiBATTISTE

##### HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this body the fact, in January, a distinguished leader of the Air Force left office to begin a new chapter in her life. Carol DiBattiste, Under Secretary of the Air Force, has recently resigned from her position, and I want to join her many friends and colleagues in commending her for a job well done.

During her tenure, Under Secretary DiBattiste served with honor and distinction, providing exceptional leadership to reinforce a promising future for the Department of Defense, the Air Force, and for American aerospace power. Coupled with her unprecedented energy, commitment, and enthusiasm, Under Secretary DiBattiste's initiatives became catalysts for success, and helped lead the Air Force through a critical period of modernization and consolidation. She was the Air Force's key leader in the fight to solve and reverse Air Force retention shortages and recruiting shortfalls. Her successes in these endeavors are both impressive and lasting.

Most notably, Under Secretary DiBattiste did a remarkable job on behalf of Air Force members and their families. Her leadership of a special Department of Defense task force to formulate anti-harassment policy resulted in outstanding guidance on this emotionally charged subject. This emphasis on equal opportunity and her tireless pursuit of higher standards for Air Force quality of life are examples of the many ways she found to invigorate morale and retention during a period of critical shortfalls, personnel reductions, and increased operations tempo. Her visionary and aggressive campaign against recruiting shortfalls, including creation of the Air Force Recruiting and Retention Task Force, the Air Force Marketing and Advertising Office, and the Strategic Communications Outreach Program, made all the difference for the Air Force in their ability to make recruiting goals and erase shortfalls. Under Secretary DiBattiste led by example, delivering almost 100 speeches in a 12 month period, and traveling to over 85 bases and locations throughout the world during her tenure.

I join my colleagues on behalf of a grateful nation in thanking Carol DiBattiste. The increased opportunities and improvements she affected across the Department of Defense and the Air Force have poised both for a brilliant future.

HONORING WAYNE GYENIZS ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-  
MENT

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to a man whose tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut. Today, after nearly 40 years of dedicated service to the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478, Wayne Gyenizs will celebrate his retirement.

Over the course of his career with IUOE Local 478, Wayne's innumerable contributions have strengthened the voice of tradesmen across the State of Connecticut. One of his most impressive achievements has been the establishment and continued expansion of Local 478's Joint Apprentice Training and Skill Improvement School. Each year, the Joint Apprentice Program provides training, skill enhancement, and refresher courses to over 600 apprentices and journeymen. This program give individuals the ability to acquire a skilled trade and lifetime opportunity—giving working families the sense of contentment that comes with economic independence. As the present of the Local 478 for the past decade, Wayne has provided a unique combination of leadership and commitment that has promoted stability among his membership and in the union's relations with its local employers.

In addition to his work with the Local 478, Wayne has been an active voice in local and national labor activities. As a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Board and the State Building and Construction Trades Council Wayne has fought for better wages, more comprehensive health benefits for workers and their families, steady and substantive employment, and safer work environments. He has been a true leader for our working families, giving them a voice during the hardest of economic times.

Wayne's generosity and commitment extends beyond his professional contributions. Serving in the U.S. Air Force for 12 years, Wayne dedicated over a decade of his life to protecting the fundamental freedoms we so often take for granted. As a member of the Easter Seals Board of Directors, Wayne has given his time and energy to improving the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Throughout his life, Wayne has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service and to improving our community.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to Wayne for his many years of service of working families throughout Connecticut. I am proud to stand today and join his wife, Judy; Sons, Glenn, Garry, and Gregg; family friends; and colleagues in saluting my dear friend, Wayne Gyenizs as he celebrates his retirement. My best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE RICK  
PACURAR

### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride and deep sadness to pay my respects to a San Francisco leader, Michael "Rick" Pacurar, who tragically passed away last month from AIDS-related complications. Rick was a tireless advocate for the causes he believed in, and his work touched the lives of many people. He will be long remembered with great affection and respect.

Rick Pacurar graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with a degree in psychology. He began attending Harvard Business School but soon moved to San Francisco after deciding his studies there were not taking him in the direction he wished to go.

He found the satisfaction from his work which had been missing in business school as an activist in San Francisco. Early on in the AIDS crisis, Rick helped to publish a pamphlet, "Can We Talk," and founded the Harvey Milk AIDS Education Fund to raise awareness about the disease. For these and other efforts, he was asked to serve on the San Francisco Joint Task Force on HIV. Rick was also an advocate for San Francisco artists and served as the director of a live-work complex for artists named Project Artaud.

Rick's activism extended into his work for candidates and elected officials. He worked on campaigns for Senator BARBARA BOXER, former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, and San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano. He also served as an aide to former Supervisor Harry Britt and to then-Assemblyman John Burton.

Rick's passing is a great loss for San Francisco. Despite his illness, he was always ready and willing to fight for what he believed in. His activity and commitment were inspirational, and he put his heart into everything that he did. Rick was a true friend to the community, and he was loved for it. We will miss him greatly.

My thoughts and prayers are with his partner, Mike Housh; his parents, Victor and Doris; his sister, Vicki Lekas; and all of his family and friends.

### THE EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNT- ABILITY IN EDUCATION ACT

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague Mr. KILDEE and other Democratic members of the House in introducing the Excellence and Accountability in Education Act, a comprehensive K-12 education reform bill.

Along with proposals last week from President Bush and from Senator JOE LIEBERMAN and Representatives TIM ROEMER and CAL DOOLEY, this is the third education proposal unveiled so far this year to improve America's public schools. All three proposals share a great deal in common.

Our schools are in a crisis. The school system, in too many instances, is failing to properly educate all of our kids. Frankly, it is nothing short of a crime that we have tolerated failing schools for so many years.

But I believe strongly that this year is going to be different.

For many years, we have debated whether we have the will or the wallet to really fix our schools. I believe we are now at a time in history when we have both the will and the wallet to improve public school education. We have a President who has clearly indicated he has the will to impose real accountability and fix failing schools. But we must also provide real resources to get the job done.

There is no point in misleading parents and schools by telling them we will help but without providing the investments that are necessary. This must be an honest process with respect to the policies and the resources that must go with them. In exchange for the resources we are going to demand accountability. That will be a winning formula if we give it a chance. That is what we do in this bill today.

In the last Congress, Mr. KILDEE and I, and other Members of Congress, worked to enact many of other policies included in our bill. I am energized and encouraged that there now appears to be a great deal of agreement across party lines and political sectors on what is needed to improve public school education for all children.

There is widespread agreement that if we provide adequate resources to schools and in return hold them accountable for meeting high standards, that all children, no matter their background, can have the opportunity to succeed in school. Such widespread agreement did not exist even one year ago.

Here is what our bill would do.

Our bill would hold schools accountable to high standards. It places particular emphasis on closing the "achievement gap" between different groups of kids—rich and poor, minority and non-minority. This is something President Bush and I both believe in strongly.

Our bill would provide the greatest amount of resources of any proposal yet to help schools meet their standards.

And our bill will continue to target resources on the most vulnerable children in the most difficult schools.

Our bill provides real money in return for real reform.

For example, we would double funding for the Title I program, boost funds to the lowest performing schools, and provide funds to improve assessment and accountability systems to make them fairer and more accurate.

Let me clear about the differences between our bill and the approach taken by President Bush.

Our bill would not divert public funds from public schools to private and religious schools, through vouchers or through any other means. Neither would the Lieberman/Roemer/Dooley bill.

The issue vouchers, in my opinion, is a non-starter.

Nor would our bill dilute or eviscerate key local education programs, such as the After-School and Safe-And Drug-Free Schools programs, school renovation, and the e-rate program that funds school and library Internet connections.

I am open to discussing with my Republican and Democratic colleagues what we can do to



streamline federal education programs at the state and local level. But the history of reduced funding and weakened accountability that comes with block grants suggests that we should approach this issue very cautiously.

I want to add that our bill places greater emphasis in certain areas where the President places less and where we hope to work together to find agreement, specifically, in the areas of: raising teacher standards; creating financial incentives such as loan forgiveness and pay bonuses to attract teachers to high-need schools; improving state and local assessment and accountability; and investing more resources.

I think the Miller/Kildee bill is the best approach in terms of committing new resources to schools, targeting effective programs, and holding schools accountable to high standards without abandoning them.

I am encouraged by the beginning of this Congress and this new Administration. I take the President's commitment to education and to working with Congress very seriously and I look forward to making a difference this year for all children.

#### PUBLIC EDUCATION REINVESTMENT REINVENTION AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

#### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in highlighting some important aspects of the Public Education Reinvestment Reintervention and Responsibility Act.

This legislation, often referred to as the Three R's, would refocus our national education policy by giving school districts the money and local control they need to improve. And, it demands that they get results.

This bill is the way to help American public schools be a true path to equal opportunity for all students by closing the achievement gap; improving teacher quality; helping immigrant students master English; promoting public school choice; and stimulating local initiatives.

It will increase public education funding by \$35 billion in the next five years and let local schools spend more time with our children, rather than wasting time applying for the same grants year after year by consolidating about 50 federal programs into 5 performance-based grants. This new process would ensure a strong stream of funding with fewer strings attached. In exchange for this increased investment and fewer strings, states and schools would be held accountable for results.

Although increased funding is a critical component to reform, it is not the only one. If we expect states to meet high standards for students, we must give them broad flexibility and strong incentives to try bold new ideas—returning the power to decide how to best educate our children to the teachers who spend the most time with them.

Because education should be a national obsession, as well as a local possession.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH INSURANCE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

#### HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce my bill, the Self-employed Health Insurance Fairness Act of 2001, to accelerate the health insurance deduction for the self-employed to 100 percent immediately.

Remarkably, more than 44 million Americans are uninsured. Over 60 percent of the 44 million uninsured Americans have one thing in common: they are either self-employed or have a family member who is employed by a small business that cannot afford to provide health benefits to its employees. Among self-employed families, approximately 5 million Americans and their children or other dependents are uninsured. These families represent small businesses operating as sole proprietors, S corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships—including the majority of farmers and ranchers. Congress should make health insurance more accessible and affordable to these working families by accelerating their health insurance deduction to 100 percent immediately.

We have the opportunity this year to provide tax fairness and parity on the deductibility of health insurance for all employers. Larger businesses can deduct 100 percent of their health insurance costs. Under current law, the long-standing disparity between the self-employed and large employers does not end until the year 2003. Three more years is a long time to ask small-business families with no health insurance to wait for simple tax fairness. For most of us, the prospect of having no health insurance coverage for ourselves and our children for even a few months is daunting—imagine three years.

As critical as this bill is to eliminating the tax disparity between small and large businesses, the bill would also provide small businesses greater access to affordable health care; expand the ability of small employers to provide health insurance to their employees, and simplify taxes for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I am proud to offer this bipartisan bill together with our ranking Democrat NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ of New York, and Representatives PHIL ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and KAREN L. THURMAN of Florida of the Committee on Ways and Means. We urge its prompt passage in this Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO DOUG JACOBS

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a fallen detective from Riverside, CA. Detective Doug Jacobs died Saturday, January 13, in the line of duty for his Riverside community. We send our condolences and prayers to his family, neighbors, and the community.

Doug Jacobs was 30 years of age and employed with the Riverside Police Department

since 1995. He leaves behind his young wife, Tamara, daughter Rachel, and stepson Nicholas Sohn. He also leaves behind neighbors and a community that will miss his constant self-sacrifice, generosity, and deep faith in God. And, now those left behind must pull together to support and strengthen each other during the coming months and years.

Being a police officer was all that Doug ever dreamed about when growing up—his family remembers him as a child riding in the car and pretending to talk to officers in passing police cars through the spare seat belt buckle. His career ambition only grew stronger as he grew older, joining the Riverside Sheriff's Department as an Explorer at 14. And recruiters saw in Doug an applicant who not only talked the talk of being an officer, but walked the walk. His love for police work led him to service in the police and sheriff's departments of Los Angeles, before returning home to work for Riverside in 1995.

The National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial, says it the best, that it is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived. And as Riverside Police Chief Russ Leach noted at the funeral, Detective Jacobs "Lived His Dreams." Many of us cannot truly understand the latent danger associated with the day to day routine of our law enforcement officers. They put themselves in danger everyday when they stop a vehicle, respond to an incident or a noise complaint—like Detective Jacobs. The danger and violence they face day in and day out is very real and it is times like these, sadly, that make us stop and honor our law enforcement officers. We hope that they be given such honor, respect and thanks always—not only when life's fragile nature is revealed. Detective Doug Jacobs lived his life protecting others and we can best serve his memory by honoring, respecting, and thanking our law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join us today to remember this fine detective. On behalf of the residents of the city of Riverside, we extend our prayers and most heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones.

#### IN HONOR OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FLORISTS

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride that I rise today to honor the work of the Society of American Florists and specifically, my constituents John and Eda Muller of Half Moon Bay, California, for their breathtaking work which displayed during the Inauguration.

The Society of American Florists has provided the floral needs for inaugural events since John F. Kennedy's administration. This year, more than 150 floral industry volunteers from 32 states and the District of Columbia arrived in Washington, D.C. a week before the inaugural festivities to create the floral themes for inaugural festivities. Together, the volunteers donated over 5,000 hours during pre-inauguration week, creating elegant and exquisite works of floral art for nine balls, three dinners and other events. Designers used their skills to arrange 150,000 roses, tulips, lilies

and other flowers from around the world, and delivered more than 1,500 centerpieces, podium pieces and stage arrangements.

Mr. Speaker, I'd specifically like to commend the efforts of my constituents John and Ida Muller. For the last thirty years, John and Ida have owned and operated Daylight Nursery in Half Moon Bay, California. Their efforts during the Inauguration are consistent with their spirit of giving, which is unlimited. They are constantly giving to their community, often hosting disabled children at their nursery. John Muller serves on the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Control Board and was recently named Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, John and Eda Muller are two of the finest human beings that I've ever had the privilege of knowing and it is a great privilege to represent them. We owe all the volunteers from the Society of American Florists our deepest gratitude for their selfless efforts during the Inauguration. Because of them, the words 'America the Beautiful' have ever more meaning for us all!

IN HONOR OF DARIEN'S 2000  
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JUDY BIGGERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dee Levenson, the 2000 Citizen of the Year for Darien, IL.

The city of Darien is at the heart of Illinois' 13th Congressional District. It is a central crossroads for a growing region. And its residents continue to work hard to live up to the city's understated motto—"a nice place to live."

Sometimes, though, that is a tall order. We all know that civic involvement is declining. Even the pillars of our communities, such as the Parent Teachers Association and the Boy Scouts, are experiencing declining rates of participation.

But we also know that there are those in our communities that set a shining example to which we all should aspire. Dee Levenson is one of those people.

When one looks at all that Dee has done for Darien, it becomes clear why she was selected as Darien's 2000 Citizen of the Year. She helped found the Darien Women's Club. She assisted in organizing the Darien Chamber of Commerce. She served on the Darienfest committee for several years, including two as its cochairperson. She then served as chairperson of Darien Day for 2 years as well.

In between all of that, Dee somehow found time to serve on the committee for the first Darien Bookmobile, was active in the Lace School PTA, was a Cub Scout leader, and coowned and operated a women's apparel store in Darien. She also served as a cochairman for the first Cystic Fibrosis drive in the area and helped her husband, Ron, launch the Darien Lion's Club needy family drive.

However, I could not sum up what Dee has meant to Darien better than what her own neighbors said about her.

They wrote: "Dee exemplifies what good citizenship is. Her strong commitment to home, family, community, and the less fortunate

make her an outstanding candidate for Citizen of the Year."

I could not agree more. Dee is the kind of person who keeps our communities vibrant and alive. Congratulations to Dee Levenson, Darien's 2000 Citizen of the Year. She has made Darien much more than a "nice place to live."

THE OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH  
AND INFORMATION AMEND-  
MENTS OF 2001

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I am today introducing the Ovarian Cancer and Research Amendments of 2001. I am proud to be joined by 56 original co-sponsors and would like to invite the rest of my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal cancer of the female reproductive system, primarily because it is so difficult to detect in its early stages. While survival rates are quite high if the disease is found before it spread beyond the ovaries, the five-year survival rate drops to 28% for women who are diagnosed and treated in the later stages of the disease. Only 25% of ovarian cancer cases are caught in the earliest stages.

The Ovarian Cancer and Research Amendments of 2001 has three components.

First, it authorizes \$150 million for ovarian cancer research: one-half to be spent on basic cancer research and one-half on clinical trials and treatment. The bill requires that priority be given to developing a test for the early detection of ovarian cancer; research to identify precursor lesions and to determine the manner in which benign conditions progress to malignant status; and research to determine the relationship between ovarian cancer and endometriosis. Moreover, the bill requires that appropriate counseling be provided to women participating in clinical trials.

Second, the bill provides for a comprehensive education program to provide information to patients and the public on screening procedures, the genetic basis to ovarian cancer, factors that increase the risk of getting ovarian cancer; and any new treatments for ovarian cancer.

Finally, it requires that the National Cancer Advisory Board include at least one individual who is at high risk of developing ovarian cancer.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in supporting this worthy cause and help to give women a fighting chance against ovarian cancer.

INTRODUCTION OF INTER-  
NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
PRICING PARITY RESOLUTION

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, our nation is facing a growing crisis—the high cost of pre-

scription drugs. The threat is greatest to our elderly who rely most heavily on prescription medications to maintain their health.

The scientific wonders of newly-developed life-saving drugs mean nothing if the people who need these medications cannot afford them.

Within our country, citizens pay widely varying prices for the same drugs. We know, for example, that seniors who rely on Medicare actually pay the highest prices for prescription drugs. We can and should work to provide a voluntary, universally-available prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

However, what I find most unconscionable is the difference in price between identical drugs sold in the United States and in our neighboring countries. Studies show that U.S. drug manufacturers often charge Americans more for their products than they do citizens of other countries. The average price differential is about 33 percent, though for certain drugs it can be much greater. Apparently, American pharmaceutical companies are happy to utilize taxpayer funded research to develop new drugs and then turn around and sell the resulting medicines to Americans at premium prices, while selling them abroad at reduced rates. Talk about fleecing of America.

Citizens of my state and many other border states have resorted to boarding busses to visit doctors and pharmacies in Canada in order to save money on their prescriptions. America is the greatest nation in the world, yet Maine people are forced to travel to Canada to obtain life-saving medicines at a price they can afford. This is simply wrong.

And yet, currently they have no alternative. Congress must seize this opportunity to make a real difference in the health and welfare of all Americans by ensuring that our citizens have affordable access to prescription drugs. We must ensure that Americans can purchase medications at prices comparable to those that citizens of other countries pay.

The need for this action is clear. Today I am reintroducing, along with Representative JO ANN EMERSON, a resolution that makes clear Congress' understanding of the high priority this issue must hold. It affirms our opposition to cross-border prescription drug price disparities and our commitment to address this issue in a meaningful way. I hope that my colleagues will join us in recognizing the seriousness of this issue, and taking action to help those most in need of affordable medications.

COMMENDING THE PREVENTION  
OF A TRAGEDY AT DE ANZA  
COLLEGE

**HON. MIKE HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest appreciation for the excellent investigative work of the San Jose Police Department and the actions of an extraordinary citizen. Yesterday, through the thoughtful work of our law enforcement and a concerned citizen who chose not to "look the other way", a tragedy liken to Columbine was averted.

A young man, whose motives are not yet fully understood, was apprehended with a

cache of weapons and explosives, which he allegedly was intending to use in an elaborate mass killing scheme and blowing up of the campus of De Anza College in Silicon Valley. Having spent much time at De Anza College and working with many of its wonderful students, I was shocked to hear of this news.

As a former schoolteacher and principal, I know how hard it is for young people today to deal with the many pressures they face. We don't yet know what this young man's motives were, but this news is a powerful reminder to all of us that we must continue to do better in identifying the warning signs for violence in our schools and work personally with our students, teaching diversity, and tolerance.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, due to a serious family illness that necessitated my presence in my district yesterday and today, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 5 (H.R. 93, the Federal Firefighters Retirement Age Fairness Act)—Yes;

Rollcall No. 6 (H. Con. Res. 14, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust)—Yes;

Rollcall No. 7 (H. Con. Res. 15, expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts)—Yes.

Rollcall No. 8 (Approval of the Journal)—Yes.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANK GREGORIN

### HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise to commend the valiant service of a fellow Arkansan, Mr. Frank Gregorin of Sommers, AR. A recounting of his World War II heroics was recently published in the 65th Signal Battalion's July 2000 Newsletter which follows below. I want to again thank Mr. Gregorin for his service to our country during those difficult times and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

[From the 65th Signal Battalion, July 2000 Newsletter]

"March 29, 1945 began as an ordinary World War II day in Europe, but on this day I was scheduled to become a cinder. It was my turn to die unless some friend would help me. The help I would need was nearly impossible to obtain. The friend would have to put his life on the line, place himself in worse danger than I who was about to die. And this was not enough. He would have to have certain skills and be able to summon super-human strength. He would have to disregard enemy rifle fire and work patiently beside gasoline which was about to explode. He would have

to disregard all these dangers and concentrate on a tough and complicated task. I had such a friend and didn't know it.

The day was the one where we departed France and entered Germany. Our convoy of 65th Signal Battalion vehicles moved into Worms, Germany, a large city on the West side of the Rhine River. The city appeared intact, but soon we noticed that those tall buildings had no insides. All roofs had fallen into basements. It was a city of shell buildings.

We arrived at the river and began a drive across it on a two track bridge, one track for each wheel, supported by flimsy pontoons. I was perched on a repair bench inside the shop of a radio-repair truck. Slight waves in the river made the pontoons roll back and forth. Movements of the convoy made it worse. There was concern that trucks would tip over and sink into the river, but all made it across. The convoy began moving deeper into Germany. First roads wound through the Hartz Mountains. Danger seemed past so I made myself comfortable. A repair bench on the away from the cliff became a bed on which I could enjoy forest scenery. It was beautiful. What a pleasant way to fight a war.

Suddenly, the convoy stopped. Looking out the window, forward, men were running away from me. To the rear, men were running away from me. Obviously, I was in some kind of a problem area. A view through the rear window told the story. There was no view, only fire, and no ordinary fire. Yow! Those were violent gasoline flames hitting the window. The entire supply of gasoline on board the trailer of the radio-repair truck was about to explode! The only exit was through the one door, through the flames, to the outside world. All windows had steel screening which could not be removed. A small, six-inch diameter opening in the front of the show was too small to pass me. I wasted precious time, wondering if somehow I could fit through the little hole. No. I must dive through the fire. I opened the door, slightly. A bunsen-burner flame blew into the truck from the top of that tiny opening to bottom. I dared open it no further.

At this point, a voice came to me from outside and beneath the door, "Stay in the truck, Oneby!" Technical Sergeant Frank Gregorin was beneath those wild flames unhitching the trailer. This was no comfort. It takes a wrench to release this type of hitch and at least two men to move the trailer; the book says four. The trailer, besides having a gasoline supply, held the entire weight of a fifteen-kilowatt gasoline-powered electric generator. He had arrived at the hitch too fast to have a wrench. He was trying to unhitch the damn thing barehanded. I'd never seen anyone even try it.

I stared at the six-inch diameter hole in the front of the repair shop. It was still too small for me to squeeze through. Suddenly, success! The flames departed from the rear window Sergeant Gregorin had removed the hitch and was walking the trailer over to the cliff, single-handedly. If one of the wheels had hit a pebble or the trailer became unbalanced in any way, he wouldn't have been able to handle it. I opened the door and prepared to join him in this four-man job. What I saw was frightening. Flames were flowing off the trailer in a vertical sheet. The sheet was inches away behind him. He didn't know of this danger and was looking at me. He yelled, "Stay away from here, Oneby. That's an order!" He was so worried about me, he didn't realize that a slight change in the direction of the wind, and he'd be burned alive. No one could ever continue carrying a heavy trailer with a bunsen-burner flame hitting him.

I closed the door, so he wouldn't look at me, gave him time to look away then opened

it again. Sergeant Gregorin had already thrown the trailer over the cliff and hit the dirt, flat as a pancake. His timing was perfect. The trailer blew up as it left his hand. A mushroom cloud moved up into the sky. I'd never seen one before. Pieces of metal were flying everywhere. I hadn't had time to be scared until then. The realization of the closeness of a nasty way of dying sunk in right there.

Everyone, including me, converged on Greg to see what was left of him. He arose and moved his arms sideways proving to himself and the rest of us that he was completely whole, not a scratch. Unbelievable.

Sergeant Damrow couldn't believe he was unhurt. He asked, incredulously, "Are you sure, you're not hurt?" Then, "You were a damn fool, Greg!" I thought, "Thank God for a damn fool." Something holy and miraculous had occurred. My wonderful sergeant had become a miracle man.

Sergeant Hess, who had been driving behind Sergeant Gregorin, called us to see damage to his vehicle. Snipers had put bullets into his windshield and wipers. Snipers had started the gasoline fire. Snipers had hit vehicles ahead and behind Sergeant Gregorin's vehicle. When Greg began his rescue, the snipers ceased their firing. I like to believe they were in awe of a brave man. Did they watch the scene from the forest above the road?

Greg returned to his vehicle behind the radio truck. I returned to the bench but didn't lie down and enjoy scenery for a whole day. Later, I asked Greg, "Would you like me to report this event, so you receive a medal?" He gave a negative reply. It was war time, and there was little opportunity for writing, immediately.

The war ended, and one day there was a big battalion meeting. Medals were issued with no mention of Greg. I could not imagine a more heroic deed, yet he got nothing. I asked him again, and he stood firm on his previous commitment. Soon he learned the folly of his way. With the medals came points to get the men home, sooner. He lamented secretly to me, "Maybe I should have let you report that event."

A sad day arrived. Greg got kicked up the ladder, transferred to higher headquarters and made into a master sergeant. His heroism and great capabilities seemed to be rewarded slightly. He disappeared from my life for a few months, then returned one day for a visit.

The 65th Signal Battalion was stationed atop a mountain near Stuttgart, Germany. He visited during October 1945. Upon his arrival, his replacement, Sergeant Valentine, called to me, saying, "A friend of yours is here." I was pleasantly surprised to see him in great health and with the smile I always like to see. Sergeant Valentine took our picture together. It was the last I would see of him for many years. We both returned home to busily take up where we left off. We eventually began exchanging letters and again got to visit together. Although not near neighbors, we do live within 800 miles of each other. I count him as my best friend. No one could ever beat him at that.

#### HONORING NEW MEXICO'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Catholic School Week. I

want to take this opportunity to highlight, praise and congratulate our Catholic schools in my home state of New Mexico.

A whole host of events and presentations are planned for this annual observance of the significant role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools play in educating our young people. This is also an occasion to observe the high standard of excellence and the quality of education available in these institutions.

Mr. Speaker, whatever our religious affiliations, we can all admit that for many generations our parochial schools have achieved outstanding results in providing an excellent education. Even non-Catholic parents have turned to the parochial schools to educate their children.

I especially wish to acknowledge Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. His strong leadership is an example to all of us. On Sunday, April 25, 1999, an editorial by Archbishop Sheehan appeared in the *Albuquerque Journal*. As he eloquently stated, "Learning takes place in the home and in the classroom. To improve academic performance, we have to have students who are willing and ready to learn, competent teachers who care about children and who have high expectations of students, and parents and extended families who also care and have high expectations of their children." Indeed, Archbishop Sheehan has captured the essence of education.

I urge all my colleagues to join with me and salute the fine people that make the Catholic schools in New Mexico a reality. It is in the spirit of this wonderful celebration that I wish to recognize and pay tribute to Catholic Schools Week.

#### RESPONSIBLE DEBT RELIEF AND DEMOCRACY REFORM ACT

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Responsible Debt Relief and Democracy Reform Act. This legislation, which I first introduced in the 106th Congress, is intended to provide debt relief to poor countries that have an insurmountable debt burden and to encourage these same countries to implement reforms for sound democracy and the maintenance of a civil society.

Having just returned from a trip to Central Africa where I visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sudan, I am convinced that responsibly provided debt relief to the poorest countries of the world is one of the best ways to help the poor and the suffering.

The countries I recently visited are among the poorest of the world. Life in those countries and throughout Africa is not easy. Death, famine, disease and pain are a constant as millions struggle to survive another day. A recent report by the United Nations says that 180 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished. Some children go days without a meal. Malnourishment lowers immune systems and horrible diseases take hold.

The AIDS virus is reaching epidemic proportions. Seventy percent of the world's AIDS

cases are in Africa where more than 16,000 people a day are infected. More than 2 million Africans died of AIDS in 2000. There are 16 African countries where more than 10 percent of the adult population is infected with AIDS.

Hunger and disease lead the list as the major crises facing the poorest countries of the world. But there are also other similar characteristics: most of these countries struggle with democracy or with bad governance; they also are caught in a downward spiral of debt, causing difficult and uncertain futures.

Many of the poorest countries must spend an exorbitant amount of their budgets simply to make their debt payments. The rock singer, Bono, a vocal advocate for providing debt relief to heavily indebted poor countries, says, "A country like Niger, with a life expectancy of 47 years, spends more paying off their debts than on health and education combined."

Indeed, a country like Niger is not alone. Debt payments can consume as much as 30–40 percent of a poor country's revenue. The chances of these countries ever paying back their loans is slim to none. Realistically, none of their debt is going to be repaid.

The poor countries of the world have an alarmingly low life expectancy rate, with reports indicating that the average person in Sierra Leone only lives for 27 years. Canceling or reducing the debt of the poorest countries of the world is an opportunity for the U.S. to alleviate the suffering that these people face. Unfortunately, many of these poor countries facing insurmountable debt and needing democratic reform are in Africa.

The new Bush Administration has a unique opportunity to make a difference in Africa. Throughout my trip, the constant refrain I heard was that the United States just needed to show it cared. No one asked for American troops to be deployed. They just want America to send a signal that it will begin to focus on the plight of Africa before another generation of young people is lost to civil war, famine, disease and AIDS.

The U.S. can help provide hope and opportunity for those who may be hopeless. Providing debt relief to the poorest governments of the world, if done in the right way, can free these governments to better address the needs of their own people.

But simply canceling a country's debt doesn't necessarily pave the way to good government. The governments of poor countries are often part of the problem. For a variety of reasons, poorly run governments frequently stand in the way of alleviating poverty or sickness or of providing hope and opportunity to the poorest of the poor.

That is why the legislation I propose today will provide incentives to countries to reform their governments, to institute needed democratic reforms and basic structures of a civil society such as, respect for human rights, promoting religious freedom, freedom of the press, and freedom of association.

The legislation says that debt by the U.S. will be provided to countries that meet the following requirements, as determined by the President of the U.S.:

Freedom of the press.

Freedom of association.

An independent and non-discriminatory judiciary.

Reduction or elimination of corruption relating to public officials, including the promulgation of laws prohibiting bribery of public officials

and disclosure of assets by such officials; the establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission; the establishment of an independent agency to audit financial activities of public officials.

Free and fair elections.

Practice of internationally recognized human rights.

Opposition to international terrorism as determined by the Secretary of State.

The President may waive one or more of these requirements for emergency humanitarian relief purposes, if the President determines and certifies to Congress that it is in the national security interests of the U.S., or if the President determines that a recipient country is making demonstrable progress in the aforementioned areas.

The President is to notify Congress of the justification for the determination of the countries that will receive a cancellation or reduction of debt according to the conditions in this legislation.

Finally, this legislation conveys the sense of Congress that the President should instruct the U.S. director at each international financial institution to which the U.S. is a member to use the voice, vote, and influence of the U.S. to urge the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the institution by a country only if the country meets the same requirements applicable in this legislation.

We need to help the poorest countries overcome their debt burdens but it must be done responsibly. We must ensure that a dictator's pockets are not lined as a result of debt relief. That is why this legislation sets up a framework to help the poorest nations of the world in their struggle toward democracy, rather than just simply writing off their debt. This legislation says progress in democratic reforms, honoring human rights, and opposition to terrorism are important for developing our poor countries. It says that one of the ways to help the poor is to give them opportunities created by engendering democracy, transparency, and much needed relief from their country's overwhelming debt burden. Lastly it says that if those goals are met, the U.S. will help those countries struggling to help their citizens to a better, more prosperous life.

Mr. Speaker, while this legislation may not be the perfect answer, I am hopeful it will provide the foundation for discussion on how to help the poor and give them opportunities so that the 107th Congress and the Bush Administration can deal with this important issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill.

H.R.—

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Responsible Debt Relief and Democracy Reform Act".

#### SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "PART VI—ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES

##### "SEC. 901 CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT.

"Beginning on and after the date of the enactment of this part, the President may cancel or reduce amounts owed to the United

States (or any agency of the United States) by foreign countries as a result of concessional or nonconcessional loans made, guarantees issued, or credits extended under any other provision of law only if, in addition to the requirements contained under the applicable provisions of law providing authority for the debt cancellation or reduction, the requirements contained in section 902 are satisfied.

#### **"SEC. 902 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A foreign country shall be eligible for cancellation or reduction of debt under any other provision of law only if the government of the country—

"(1) ensures freedom of the press;

"(2) ensures freedom of association;

"(3) has established an independent and non-discriminatory judiciary;

"(4) provides for the reduction or elimination of corruption relating to public officials, including—

"(A) the promulgation of laws to prohibit bribery of and by public officials, including disclosure of assets by such officials upon taking office, periodically while in office, and upon leaving office;

"(B) the establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission—

"(i) to receive and verify the disclosure of assets by public officials in accordance with subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) to investigate allegations of corruption or misconduct by public officials and to make all findings available to the appropriate administrative or judicial entries; and

"(C) the establishment of an independent agency—

"(i) to audit the financial activities of public officials and agencies; and

"(ii) to make all audits under clause (i) available to the appropriate administrative or judicial entities;

"(5) is elected through free and fair elections;

"(6) does not engage in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; and

"(7) does not repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined by the Secretary of State under section 6(j)(1) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)) or section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a)).

"(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The President may waive the application of 1 or more of the re-

quirements of subsection (a) with respect to the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the United States by a foreign country—

"(1) for emergency humanitarian relief purposes;

"(2) if the President determines that it is in the national security interests of the United States to do so or

"(3) if the President determines that the foreign country is making demonstrable progress in meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a) by adopting appropriate legal and other related reforms.

"(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 7 days prior to the cancellation or reduction of debt in accordance with section 901, the President shall transmit to the Congress a report that contains a justification for the determination by the President that—

"(1) the requirements contained in each of paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a) have been satisfied with respect to the foreign country involved; or

"(2) the requirement of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (b) has been satisfied with respect to the foreign country involved."

#### **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RELATING TO CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF MULTILATERAL DEBT.**

It is the sense of the Congress of the President should instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to which the United States is a member to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to urge that the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the institution by a country may be provided only if the country meets the same requirements applicable to the cancellation or reduction of amounts owed to the United States under paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 902(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2).

#### **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION RELATING TO H. CON. RES. 15**

**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD, a letter from Chairman OXLEY, con-

cerning his committee's jurisdiction over H. Con. Res. 15 and his willingness to waive that committees referral of the bill, to permit us to proceed to its consideration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, January 31, 2001.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,  
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY: I understand that you intend to bring H. Con. Res. 15, a resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the Indian earthquake, to the floor today for consideration under the suspension calendar. As you know, the Committee on Financial Services was granted an additional referral upon the resolution's introduction pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction over international financial and monetary organizations under Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Because of the importance of this matter, I recognize your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and will waive consideration of the resolution by the Financial Services Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the resolution, the Financial Services Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H. Con. Res. 15. In addition, the Committee on Financial Services reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the resolution that are within the Financial Services Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Financial Services for conferees on H. Con. Res. 15 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response as part of the Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,  
Chairman.